SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

SPS meetings are held in the Los Angeles room behind the cafeteria at the DWP, 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month. DWP, 111 North Hope Street, Los Angeles. Free parking (please inform parking attendants that you are attending a SC meeting).

November 13 - Wednesday - Kilimanjaro climbing and charity - Penelope May, Penelope will show her slides of her climb of Kilimanjaro, high point of Africa. See the school where African children attend that Penelope raises money for with each Kilimanjaro trip she leads.

December 11 - Wednesday - Hiking the Pyrenees - Beth Epstein, Beth will show her slides of her September 2002 hiking trip in the Pyrenees of France.

January 8, 2003 - Wednesday - Annual SPS Banquet - Ellen Wilts speaker, We are very fortunate to have Ellen Wilts as our banquet speaker. Ellen’s husband, Chuck Wilts, did much to make mountaineering and rock climbing what it is today. Don’t miss this historical show with climbs of peaks in Canada and locally. Join your friends and welcome in a new year of climbing in the Sierra. Location: Buon Gusto Trattoria, 5755 E. Pacific Coast Hwy, Long Beach. 6:00 pm: no host bar, 7:30 pm dinner. Indicate choice of chicken, fish or vegetarian by Dec. 30th. Send SASE with check for $28.00 to SPS, Banquet Chair Gary Schenk, P.O. Box 1414, Huntington Beach, CA 92647-1414. Question phone Gary at 714/846-2264 or e-mail gwschenk@socal.rr.com.

Peak List
Kearsage Peak
Petit
Piute
Volunteer
Hermit
Scylla
Mt Goddard
Mt McGee
Mt Goethe
Mt Lamarck
Homer’s Nose

Range of Light Echo Cover Contest
The April/May 2003 Echo cover will feature one spectacular color photo by an SPS Member.

Get ready to show off your artistic talents. Photos for consideration to be submitted by March 30, 2003 to Barbee Tidball.

Judging to be by the SPS Management Committee. Winner will be featured on the Echo cover in color. Runners-up to be printed in black & white either on future Echo covers or in a feature story.

Submit your best photo (limit 2 submissions per photographer) in 5 x 7 or 8 x 10 print format

Front

Snow Comes to the Sierra - Alabama Hills & Lone Pine Peak in Autumn, photo by Larry Tidball
See past editions of The Sierra Echo for detailed write-ups of trips without full write-ups. Trips previously described are listed without detailed write-ups in subsequent publications. Note all trips listed as MR or ER are restricted trips open to Sierra Club members only with the appropriate rock or snow skills. For all trips remember to send a SASE, Sierra Club #, experience and conditioning resume (if you are not known to the leaders), H & W phone #s, e-mail address optional, and rideshare information.

FEBRUARY continued

M/ER: Feb 15 Sat Baldy Snow Practice. Local snow climbing practice at Baldy Bowl. For aspiring M and E candidates and for current leaders who want to brush up on new techniques. Lack of snow may cancel. Send 2 SASE or 1 SASE & E-mail. Ldr. Tina Bowman, Co-ldr. Tom Bowman.

MARCH

March 11th Angeles Chapter deadline for summer trips...send yours to the SPS outings coordinator by March 3, 2003.

O,I,M&E: Mar 22 Sat LTC Deadline for Leadership Training Seminar: Last day for receipt of application and payment by LTC Registrar for enrollment in April 5 seminar. Next seminar: Fall 2003. Send SASE to Don Creighton, LTC Registrar

E/M: Mar 22 Sat LTC Stony Point Rock Workshop/Checkoff: This intermediate and advanced workshop is based on the rock requirements for M and E leadership. Checkoffs for M and E rock must be pre-arranged. It is a restricted trip; to participate you must be a member of the Sierra Club and have suitable rock climbing experience. Ldr: Ron Hudson. Asst: Patty Rambert


APRIL

E: Apr 5-6 Sat-Sun Bloody Mtn (12,552’): SPS/WTC Trip restricted to SC members with ice axe and crampon snow climbing experience, and strong physical conditioning. Sat backpack along Laurel Creek Canyon to camp continued next page
Apr 5-6 continued


M/E: Apr 12-13 Sat-Sun LTC/SPS/DPS Sierra Snow Checkoff: For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings. Practice available for those wanting to brush up on new techniques. Restricted to SC mbrs with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, 2 SASE, or 1 SASE and email, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson Co-Ldr: Tina Bowman, Tom Bowman.

M/E: Apr 25-27 Sat-Sun LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC Rock Workshop at Indian Wells Cyn: Oriented to rock skills for leading groups on 3rd, 4th, and short 5th class peak climbs. Sat instruction and practice skills. Sat night happy hour, car camp. Sun x-c hike and peak climb to employ skills and equipment. Checkouts may be scheduled if sufficient interest (inquire early). Required: SC membership, knowledge of basic knots and rock technique, peak climbing experience; bring basic climbing equipment. Preference to those pursuing M or E ratings and enrolled in Leadership Training. Send resume, $10 deposit (returned when you show up), $10 equipment fee (checkout only exempt) (checks to SC) to Ldr: Ron Hudson. Asst: Patty Rambert.

MAY

I: May 3 Sat LTC Mt Lowe (5603') 16th Beginning Navigation Clinic: 5 mi, 500' gain. Spend the day one on one with an instructor, learning/practicing map and compass. Beginners to rusty old timers welcome. Not a checkoff. Many expert leaders will attend; many "I" rated leaders started here in the past. Recent no-shows require a $25 deposit, refunded at trailhead. Send large sase early with check made out to Sierra Club, H&W phones to Ldr: Diane Dunbar, Co-Ldr: Don Creighton.

M/E: May 17-18 Sat-Sun SPS/LTC Sierra Snow Checkout: Restricted to Sierra Club members in good standing seeking to become leaders, with prior ice axe, crampon, and rope training experience. Successfully demonstrate your skills to receive an M or E checkoff. Send SC#, sase to Ldr: Randall Danta. Co-Ldr: Virgil Talbot.

May continued

I: May 18 Sun LTC/WTC Grinnell Ridge Navigation: Navigation Noodle in San Bernardino National Forest for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. To receive homework assignment, send sase with navigation experience/training, rideshare info, H&W phones, to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Asst: Bob Bradshaw.

I: May 24-26 Sat-Mon Sirretta Peak (9977'), Cannel Point (8314') Taylor Dome (8802') Pinyon Peak (6805') Owens Peak (8453'): SPS/HPS Car camps. Moderate pace, Sat 3200 ft, 8 mi rt; Sun 3800 ft, 8 mi rt; Mon 3200 ft, 8 mi rt. Come for 1 or all 3 days. Email (preferably) or send two SASE to Ldr: Sara Wyrans Ldr: George Wysup.

I: May 31 - Jun 1 Sat-Sun Olanche PK (12,123') SPS/K-9 Com. Mod.strenuous climb of SPS Emblem PK at the source of Crystal Geyser water in the S. Sierra. SPS intro.trip geared to new SPS climbers & strong WTC students. Qualified K-9's welcome w/ permission. Sat hike 8 mi, 3900' gain from Sage Flat to base camp off PCT Trail at approx. 9700'. Sun climb 2nd class Olanche 7 miles round trip and 2400' gain and out. Total gain for weekend 6300' in 23 miles round trip. Sat evening community happy hour. Send 2 SASE. Ldr: Patty Kline Asst: Julie Rush.

I: May 31-Jun 1 Sat-Sun Kern Pk (11,510'). Mod. pace backpack 9 mi, 1000' loss to Redrock meadows. Climb cl 2 peak, 7 mi 300' gain rt & pack out 9 mi, 1000' gain. E-mail (preferably) or send 2 sase to Ldr: Sara Wyrans Co-Ldr: David Beymer

M: May 31-Jun 1 Sat-Sun Mt Baxter (13,125'). Climb this class 3 peak near Independence using ice ax and crampons. Sat backpack about 5 mi, 4000' gain to camp. Sun 2 mi, 3000' gain to summit and pack out. Restricted to SC members. Send after Apr 1: SC#, climbing resume and current conditioning, 2 sase OR 1 sase and email, home address, H&W phones to Ldr: Ron Hudson. Co-Ldr: Patty Rambert

JUNE

M/E: Jun 7-8 Sat-Sun LTC/SPS/DPS Sierra Snow Checkoff: For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings. Practice available for those wanting to brush up on new techniques. Restricted to SC members with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send 2 sase, or 1 sase and email, to Ldr: Nile Sorenson. Co-Ldr: Doug Mantle.

M: Jun 7-8 Sat-Sun Mt Dade (13,600'+). Moderate backpack & snow climb. Ldr: Erik Siering, Asst Asher Waxman

Trip listings continued page 18
ECHOES
FROM THE
CHAIR

November 8, 2002

As I write this, today is
Mammoth Mountain’s opening
day. For skiing and
snowboarding. With an
auspicious new four-foot base.
Wax up your sticks and boards.
Gotta ski. Winter has arrived in
the Sierra Nevada with a bang!

It has been a wonderful past season of climbing. SPS heartily congratulates Reiner Stenzel, and
Greg & Mirna Roach on their fresh new list finishes. Accomplished with style and excellent parties
too.

Changes are in store for the section starting in 2003. First, our basic membership has been bumped
to $15/year. After no increases for over twelve years, this has finally been dictated by higher
newsletter and mailing costs. Sustaining membership stays the same. Second, our meeting schedule
is modified. To ensure the quality and attendance of our programs, our monthly general meetings
will be held May through November. Our annual banquet remains in January. This schedule covers
the nominal SPS climbing season, and complements the DPS calendar of October through April.
Let’s encourage our two preeminent Angeles Chapter climbing sections to collaborate on their
programs and activities to the benefit of the many common members.

VOTE for your 2003 SPS Management Committee. Thanks to the efforts of our Nominating
Committee, chaired by Patty Kline, we have a strong slate of ready, willing and most able
candidates. All are excellent choices. Mail in the enclosed ballot ASAP. Tallying and results to be
announced at the December meeting.

SIGNUP now for the at the SPS banquet on January 8th. I hope to see everyone there! Ellen Wilts
will present her program on climbing and skiing with her late husband Chuck Wilts. I’ve seen her
enthralling talk. The Wilts have many close acquaintances locally, through both the RCS and SMS,
as well as Caltech where Chuck was an engineering professor. Like last year, the evening festivities
are at Buon Gusto Trattoria in Long Beach. It is such a pleasure to attend a banquet where the food
is as fine as our camaraderie and the program.

Cheers,
Erik Siering/SPS Chair 2002
October 9, 2002

Management Committee Meeting
Attended By: Erik Siering, Gary Schenk, Joe Wankum, Patty Kline, Ann Kramer, Barbee Tidball

The meeting began at 6:43 pm.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved with changes.

Relevant Pre-Meeting e-mail Correspondence:

1. Barbee Tidball indicated: (a) Echos will be ready by next week Monday; (b) Editor needs replacement address for the Treasurer; (c) Barbee needs a deposit check for $515 for brochures; (d) entire cost is $1027 for 6000 copies of brochure with revised quote to be available on Wednesday; (e) Erik Siering to coordinate SPS reimbursement from other sections.

2. Maria Roa sent e-mail indicating: (a) absence from meeting due to trip to Chicago; (b) will not be able to send Echo mailing labels to mailer until the weekend; (c) will mail check for printing to Barbee on Saturday if Barbee advises on who check is to be payable to; (d) suggested that Chapter office be used for Treasurer correspondence; (e) as of 9/11, there were 216 subscribers with e-mail reminder being sent to an additional 56 prior members.

Nominating Committee: Patty Kline announced that the following members will be on the ballot for election of the Management Committee (M/C) for the coming year: Henry Arnebold, Bob Beach, Beth Epstein, Patty Rambert, Anne Marie Turner-Richardson, Gary Schenk, Joe Wankum.

Membership/Outreach: Erik indicated that we need to push to schedule more summer trips to attract new members.

Banquet Publicity: Gary will submit an input to the southern Sierran. Erik indicated that Maria Roa will send an announcement to the DPS, HPS, SMS, and WTC. Erik will handle other groups.

Joint Flyer: Barbee Tidball indicated that she needs a check for $1027 for the 6000 copies of the joint flyer. The cost – and the copies will be split three ways between the DPS, HPS, and SPS.

Meetings: The decision on joint meetings with the DPS is on hold pending a response from the DPS. In the meantime, Patty Kline will proceed with arranging a meeting location for the first half of 2003.

Programs: Patty Kline indicated that the program for next May will be Steve Smith on climbing Mt. Elbrus and for next June will be Reiner Stenzel on the John Muir Trail. (Note: There is no meeting in March or April.)

Echo: Barbee Tidball indicated that the upcoming Echo will cover three months: August-October. The following issue will cover one month (November) and will likely be 12 pages or less. An updated roster of members will be available at the Banquet. The roster will be mailed to those not at the Banquet.

Recent Accomplishments:

List Finish (2nd time): Greg Vernon on Piute Mtn 8/4/02
List Finish: Reiner Stenzel on Three Sisters 9/21/02
Master Emblem: Al Conrad on Morrison 7/19/02
Senior Emblem: John T. Dodds on Red Slate 9/1/02
New Member: Bettye Swart on Morgan 7/02
New Member: Michael Gosnell on Florence 6/22/02

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm

SPS General Meeting

The meeting was chaired by Erik Siering. Leaders gave reports on recent outings. Erik gave a brief report on upcoming outings.

Erik introduced the evening’s presenters, Wally & Sherry Ross, who gave a program on birding.
2003 - SPS's Future - A Call To Leaders

by Barbee Tidball

A couple months back Joe Wankum e-mailed me a survey of SPSers accomplishments. He sent two tables, one illustrated our cumulative accomplishments through 2001. 58 members were list finishers and 563 persons had received their Emblem since 1956! Wow!

I was impressed and proud to realize that I knew personally and had hiked with a number of the elite who had given their time and love to climbing and leading in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Then I looked at Joe's second table (see table) This table showed when SPS members made their Sierra climbs. List finishers have consistently been represented over the years. Most years (after a brief start-up period) there has been at least one list finisher and one year 8 people completed their odyssey to all 247 peaks. I know for some the odyssey took over 20 years and for others just a relative few.

The column that really caught my eye was the Emblem holders. For 20 years between 1967 and 1983 it appears everyone in our club was climbing in the Sierra - then all of sudden the trend fell off. Since 1983 we had a few moderately active years and many years of very limited activity.

When I climbed my first official SPS peak in 1989 right after BMTC (where one of my leaders was Joe) there were 38 SPS trips listed in The Echo between July 8 and Oct 22nd despite insurance restrictions that had come into effect that year. Looking back at Echoes published between 1967-1970 and then 1978-1983 (I
didn't have copies of the years 1971-1977) I found that an average of 40.4 trips were led every year during the peak climbing season of July-October. No wonder so many people were achieving their Emblems - there were lots of trips to go on and leaders to mentor them.

In late 2002 the SPS is coming out with a new brochure jointly sponsoring climbing with the HPS and the DPS. The brochure was developed to introduce new climbers to our great climbing sections. The SPS has spearheaded this move to encourage more people to join the section and as the brochure says “COME CLIMB WITH US”. As the SPS approaches its 50th anniversary we are constantly looking for ways to encourage new climbers to join us in the Range of Light.

I believe that the best way to keep the SPS strong and to encourage climbers to join us is for us to LEAD trips. In 2002 The Echo published 17 SPS trips for the July to October climbing season. An additional 14 WTC/SPS trips provided a few more climbing opportunities - but clearly we need more SPS trips led.

Most of the Emblem, Senior Emblem, Master Emblem and SPS List Finishers owe their accomplishments to SPS leaders who encouraged them to the great heights. The odyssey from Emblem holder to List finisher can be a long journey. For many climbers getting their Emblem and climbing in the Sierra is reward enough. For other climbers 247 peaks is not enough. Emblem holders or List finishers have a few things in common - they like to climb in the Sierra and they enjoy the company of other climbers. Few climbers solo all or even the majority of the peaks they summit.

I'm proud to be a member of the SPS. With that pride comes also the knowledge that I have a responsibility to the SPS. I can lead. As an “M” rated leader I am part of what makes the SPS the premier climbing club in the Sierra. Trip leaders are the foundation of the SPS. The “list” is the goal, but the trips to the Sierra are the building blocks. Every Emblem holder or List finisher who belongs to the SPS has been led on a trip.

In 2001 only 4 people achieved their Em-blem. In 2002 there have to date been no reports of Emblem accomplishments. The fewer trips that are led, the fewer climbers get to experience the Sierra with the SPS; the fewer climbers are encouraged to achieve their Emblem or even greater goals; and the fewer climbers are introduced to the love and protection we as Sierra Club SPS members feel for the Range of Light.

In 2003 I encourage all I. M. & E leaders to join me in pledging their commitment to the strength and longevity of the SPS by leading at least one trip between July 1st and October 31st. It's the best way I know to climb toward our 50th year - maybe then we can see 15 or more Emblem holders year after year again.

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### SPS Membership Report

#### Accomplishments - Congratulations

- Greg Roach
  - SPS List Finisher - October 12, 2002
  - Kearsarge

- Mirna Roach
  - SPS List Finisher - October 12, 2002
  - Kearsarge

#### Welcome - New Members

- Agustin Medina
  - 1710 Laurel Street
  - South Pasadena, CA 91030
  - Phone H626/799-0121/9423/580-0124
  - E-mail medina364@aol.com

- David Foerstel
  - 1211 N Griffith Park Drive
  - Burbank, CA 91506
  - Phone H818/557 7787 W210/916 5545
  - E-mail daflaf1@earthlink.net

#### Happy Reading - New Subscribers

- Barbara Guerin
  - 12804 Herencia Drive, Sp. 389
  - Poway, CA 92064

- Chris Libby
  - P.O. Box 7838
  - Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546-7838
KEARSARGE PEAK
Double List Finish
October 12, 2002
By Mirna & Greg Roach

We spent 16 wonderful summers exploring the magnificent Sierra Nevada Mountains and finally reached our goal, climbing the chosen 247 peaks.

We met at the Onion Valley trailhead on Saturday morning at 7:00 AM. 50 participants showed up for the hike. We divided everyone into two groups; Tina Bowman lead one group of 15 strong hikers up the Golden Trout Lake. Mirna, Scot Jamison, and I led the second group, and we had 35 participants in our group. Our hike started from the dirt road about .75 of a mile down from Onion Valley. The trail leaves the northern part of the road and heads up the eastern side of the mountain. The trail is faint at first as it winds it’s way through the brush but it gets better higher up. This old mining trail is shown on both the 15 (Mt. Pinchot) and 7.5 (Kearsarge Peak) minute topo maps. The hike was about 7 miles round trip and 3600 ft elevation gain. The fall colors were beatiful in Onion Valley and there was a light dusting of snow on the mountains. It was a beautiful day. The trail switched back and forth and above 12,000’ we encountered our first snow. Everyone was very careful traversing the mixed talus and snow on the ridge. The first group of our participants arrived at the summit around 12:30 PM. Tina’s hiking group had been waiting for our group at the summit at least an hour.

Once on the summit the celebration began. Corks started popping and everyone congratulated us. Linda McDermott presented Mirna and me with crowns from Burger King, as we were King and Queen for the moment. Why, it felt like we just ate some margarine (must have been Imperial. Remember the old commercials?) The traditional photos were taken. Everyone was smiling. It was a great moment for Mirna and me. Then as if the Crowns were not enough; Linda presented us with a beautiful quilt she had made from pieces of old mountaineering clothing our friends had given her. Thank you very much Linda.

As I looked out from the top of Kearsarge Peak the view was magnificent. I could see the peaks in the Kings Kern Divide and the Great Western Divide that we had climbed. I started to remember all the good times we have had climbing the Sierra Peaks. One of my favorite trips was the one that I lead into the Kings Kern
and Great Western Divides in 1996. Rich Gnagy was on that trip, and it was great to see his signature in the registers going back to the 1950’s. Then there was the summer when Dan Richter, Mirna, and I decided to climb all the Emblem peaks. We would also like to acknowledge Larry Tidball and Bill Oliver for leading climbs of some of the more challenging peaks e.g. Palisade Crest, Thunderbolt, and Disappointment, and Devil’s Crag. We have made so many good friends along the way it has made the effort put into climbing the list all worthwhile.

As a matter of fact, we have learned a lot from climbing “The List” for the mountain peaks are not just a list to be checked off or conquered. Reaching the summit gives one a feeling of accomplishment, but there is a whole environment to be enjoyed and learned from. Why people just want to rush up to the mountains, climb the peak, and rush back to Los Angeles I just don’t understand. We have enjoyed so many beautiful areas in the Sierra.

We have enjoyed exploring the valleys, the high meadows, the ridges, the mountain passes, and canyons. Fishing the lakes and streams has given me much pleasure and enjoyment. Glissading down the snow-covered slopes has been exhilarating and rappelling down ridges thrilling. We have learned to love the land. Going to the mountains is a second home for us. It is a pleasant retreat from our over crowded cities.

Let’s hope that man has the wisdom to keep the mountains wild and free.

After the peak climb we drove back down to Independence and then north on U.S. Highway 395 to the BLM Goodale Creek Campground for a world class happy hour, campfire, and potluck dinner. Goodale Creek Campground is located 16 miles north of Independence on U.S. 395, then 2 miles west on Aberdeen Cutoff Road. 65 convened at the campground, and the celebration commenced around 6:30 PM. We had plenty of champagne, wine, hors d’oeuvres, salads, main dishes, soups, and desserts. Some of the specialties were the halibut chowder, chicken
chili, salads, chicken casseroles, fruit salads, pasta salads, and the decorated cake that was terrific! Everyone outdid himself or herself and provided a superb spread of delicious meals. Thank you.

The campfire was very pleasant; everyone exchanged experiences, memories, and talked about future trips. Thanks to Linda for giving us such a wonderful quilt with memories of great friends we have climbed with. She also gave us a super great book "A Journal of Ramblings Through The High Sierras of California" by Joseph LeConte, the book was signed by the group. And Mirna loves her "No Problem" cap. Thanks to Dave and Elaine Baldwin for presenting us with the 12"x14" watercolor painting of Kearsarge Peak that Elaine painted and everyone signed. Thanks to everyone for your cards and best wishes. To all of you who were there and also the ones that could not make it we are very grateful for such wonderful memories.

Here is a list of participants in alphabetical order: Pat & Dean Acheson, Jan Anthony, Henry Arnebold, Ron Bartell, Dave & Elaine Baldwin, Lori & Eric Beck, Tina & Tom Bowman, Jan
Brahms, Steve Eckert, Gary Craig, Janet Damen, Rick Gordon, Rich Gnagy, Jim Hinkley, Jeff Ho, Delores Holladay, Pat & Gerry Holleman, Sue Holloway, Ron Hudson, Judy Hummerich, Vic Henney, Yvonne & Scot Jamison, Patty Kline, Charlie Knapke, Ann Kramer, Ted Lenzie, Sue & Bill Livingston, Penelope May, Linda McDermott, Jamie McDermott, Christine Mitchell, Jim Murphy, Patty Rambert, David Reneric, Julie Rush, Neal Scot, Elena Sherman, Barbara & Dave Sholle, Eric Siering, William Siegel, Jan St. Amand, Don Sparks, Reiner Stenzel, Scott Sullivan, Tom Sumner, Ted Tassop, Bob Thompson, Barbee & Larry Tidball, David Underwood, Barbara Vaughn, Judy Ware, Asher Waxman, Catheleen Welsh, Jack Wickel, Brad Wolaver, Sue Wyman, Pete Yamagata.

A quote from John Muir that will summarize how we felt about the mountains, and it goes “thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home: that wilderness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as a fountains of lumber and irrigating river, but a fountain of life.”

Happy trails to you all until we meet again in the range of light! Greg and Mirna
Pettit, Piute, Volunteer

July 19-21

Doug Mantle, Tina Bowman

Leading PP&V has always been risky business.

The first SPS venture was led by a hero of mine, Paul Lipsohn. He rode alone, no participants, no assistant leader. The second trip was 1974, led by Paul ... and me. Paul presciently couldn’t make the trip, leaving just three of us, one of whom got sick en route (no doubt due to the stresses of our 18-hour hike on day 2). Greg Vernon soon led another trip, with a lone participant (perhaps partly due to the unfathomly bad trip poem... “...for years we’ve you been stalking, etc.”).

I had since led here twice, and now once in each of four decades. Ok, I blew Tower last time (sorry, Greg), but this was TINA AND DOUG; weren’t we SPS demi-Gods, surely, followers would flock to us?

Delusions vanished; I pouted as both of our participants bailed out.

What too fazed me: could I keep up? Tina had just dayhiked Mt. Gardner and as usual was in terrific shape. The equalizers: Doug, a 12-lb pack and two trekking poles; Tina, including a bear cannister, wielded her usual 58-lb tower.

Thus equated we still had to contend with the other half of the task:

Day 1:  19-1/2 miles, 3,000 feet gain...then climb Piute. 2-1/2 mi. rt., 2,000 ft. gain. 13 hours. The route went from Twin Lakes, up past Peeler Lake, down Kerrick Canyon, up to Seavey Pass, down to about 8,500 ft., barely finding water there. This was all facilitated by an early start from Twin Lakes/Mono Village, 5:30 a.m. (we got there early enough the day before to arrange parking permits), several mosquito ambushes, and elk jerky.

From the 8,500 ft. level, we dropped/headed left a bit, then aimed for the ridge. 3/4 miles south of Piute. It went well, we expended a minimal amount of energy for this first peak.

Day 2:  18 miles, 6,000 ft. gain, including packing back up to Seavey Pass. 11-1/2 hours. Luckily, decently cool weather and a 5:15 a.m. start helped us along. My near-ridge top traverse from Volunteer to Pettit cost us a maximum amount of energy for peak #3.

The route was first down to Benson Lake at 7,600 ft., up trail toward Smedberg, then briefly Rodgers Lake, thence up Volunteer (cl 2-3 to the N ridge, then easily S to the top). On, as mentioned, to Pettit (better: stay lower on the E side past all but the last intervening bump), then down to Rodgers Lake, back by trail to camp, on to a relieving dunk at the lakelet just below Seavey Pass.

Day 3:  18-1/2 miles, 1,000 ft. gain, all via trail, to cars at 11:30 a.m., home 4:45 p.m. (average driving speed 102.5 mph). The main challenge here was wildflower names (yes, yes, they were so very pretty). Tina named 74 varieties, then reneged on most of those (“...there’s another type, too, I’m not sure which this one is for sure...”). I’ll stick with the two I am sure of:

Thus, Tina got SPS Peak #200 x 2, I made Sierra ascent #1500, and we get eight years to rest up before leading it again.

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Own Your Own SPS T-Shirt. They come with a picture of North Palisade on the front and the entire SPS list by geographic area, with Mountaineer and Emblem Peak easily identified on the back. T-Shirts come in Medium, Large and Extra Large. Colors are sand, tan, and yellow. Cost is $12.00 plus $3.50 shipping for 1 and $4.00 for 2 or more T-shirts. Buy them from Patty at the SPS meetings and save the shipping charge. Make check payable to the SPS. Send your order to: Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Drive, Topanga Canyon, CA 90290.
The Hermit, Scylla, Mount Goddard, Mount McGee, Mount Goethe and Mount Lamarck

August 26-30, 2002
By: Greg Gerlach

Monday, August 26. Five people were interested in doing the trip when it was being planned, but when all was said and done only Bob Wyka, John Fisanotti and myself were at the Northlake trailhead at the designated time to start the trip. The group started up the trail towards Lamarck Col around 8:00 a.m. We made reasonably good time, arriving at the col around lunchtime. The descent was another matter, however, taking around 4 ½ hours to get to our campsite located on the western edge of Darwin Bench near a large lake.

Tuesday, August 27. Bob, John and I were up at 6:00 a.m. and hiking along the trail at 7:00 a.m. towards The Hermit. Upon arriving at Sapphire Lake, we prepared daypacks and headed west over McGee Lakes Pass towards McGee Lakes. From the second large McGee Lake we made our way to the lake located southwest of The Hermit. The group started for the summit at 11:15 a.m., electing to climb the first chute located south of the summit to a notch. The chute had an abundance of loose rock, which took a while to navigate safely. From the notch, we dropped down about 100-150’ below the eastern ridge as we made our way towards the summit block, finally arriving on top at 12:30 p.m. After signing the summit register the group made its way back towards the notch, staying just below the eastern ridge. Bob, John and I decided to descend to the lake by taking the next chute over from our ascent route, which went very well because it was mostly sand. We retraced our route back to Sapphire Lake, then made our way to Wanda Lake for the night. The group found a nice campsite around 7:00 p.m. located on the western shore of the lake near the peninsula.

Wednesday, August 28. The group was up at 6:00 a.m. and hiking around 7:10 a.m. for the day’s peaks: Mount Goddard for John and Scylla for Bob and I. We ascended to Wanda Pass, where John departed for Goddard and Bob and I headed off for Scylla. Bob and I descended to lake 11,592, going around its eastern shore. We continued on to lake 11,837, again going around the eastern shore of the lake. Bob and I prodded along to the lake located at the base of Scylla. We proceeded about half way around the lake along its eastern shore, than headed up the northwest slope of the peak, summiting at 11:30 a.m. After signing the register, Bob and I retraced our steps back to Wanda Lake, arriving around 3:30 p.m. In the meantime, John headed west from Wanda Pass to the summit of Goddard, staying on the south side of the Goddard Divide. The route was primarily class 1-2 and he arrived on top around 12:15 p.m. After signing the summit register, John retraced his steps back to camp, arriving around 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 29. Bob and I were up at 6:00 a.m. and hiking toward Mount McGee at 7:00 a.m. Instead of climbing McGee, John decided to hike to our planned campsite located at the lake where we had spent our first night. Bob and I climbed over Davis Lakes Pass located west of Wanda Lake, then down the other side to Davis Lakes. We passed the first large Davis Lake along its southern shore and the second large Davis Lake along its northern shore. The extensive talus fields along the route made the going somewhat tedious at times. From the second large Davis Lake we contoured up to the large talus fan that emanates from the chute that leads directly up to the notch located between the middle and western summits of McGee. The route up the chute contained a mixture of decent class 3 rocks along the sides to miserable and loose class 2 scree. We ascended to the notch between the two peaks, then headed southeast along the ridge to the higher middle peak, summiting at 11:00 a.m. Bob and I were only the second and third persons to climb the peak this year. After signing the register, we retraced our steps back to camp located at Wanda Lake, arriving around 3:00 p.m. Bob and I packed up our gear and headed off to our planned campsite at Darwin Bench, meeting up with John around 6:00 p.m.

Friday, August 30. Bob and I were up at 6:00 a.m., packed our gear and started hiking towards Mount Goethe by 7:00 a.m. Instead of climbing Goethe, John decided to hike to Lamarck Col and Climb Mount Lamarck. Bob and I climbed up toward the lower lake located south of Mount Goethe.
Homers Nose
June 15-16, 2002
by Reiner Stenzel

Homers Nose has been characterized as an "extreme" el 1 peak. The standard route from South Fork involves a 7,000' bushwhacking ascent, a second route via Case Mtn involves trespassing through private lands, and the third route via Hockett Mdw s involves a 38 mi round-trip out of Mineral King. This is the one we chose. Nine hikers (R.S., Mike McDermit, Ron Hudson, Gary Bowen, Scott Sullivan, Elena Sherman, Ted Lenzie, Vishal Jaiswal, Leslie Hotherr) met on Sat, 7 am, at the Mineral King Ranger Station where we picked up our wilderness permit. After marmot-proofing the cars with chicken wire we set off by 8:30 am on the Tar Gap trail. It switchbacks 1,000' out of the Kaweah River valley and then contours for 12 mi at the 8,200' level to Hockett Mdw s (8,500'). It is a pleasant hike through forested terrain with many stream crossings.

Wildflowers were abundant. Hockett Mdw s was lush and green but already infested by mosquitoes. At the unmanned Hockett Mdw s Ranger Station we took the trail to Cahoorn Rock. By 3 pm, we made camp at a small stream 0.5 mi east of Cahoorn Rock. Since it was too late to attempt the "Nose" we had a relaxed afternoon at our camp in an open forest (UTM 11349333E, 4027092N, NAD27, 8,950'). Some climbed Cahoorn Rock (9,278'), others went down to Evelyn Lke (8,700') for a swim and trout fishing. We caught 10 large trout to supplement dinner. A campfire kept the mosquitoes away. Since the next day would be a long one we retired early for a 4 am rise. On Sun, the group started hiking by 5:20 am. We climbed to Cahoorn Rock where the trail ends and an approx. 5 mi XC roller-coaster ridge leads to Homers Nose. It started with a 1,200' drop into the 8,000' saddle where Cahoorn Creek starts. The ridge has about half a

continued
Goethe, where we prepared daypacks. We continued around the lake's northern shore and up towards the summit. The class 1 sand along the lower section of the peak and the class 2 talus fields along the upper section of the peak made the going somewhat tedious at times. Bob and I summited around 10:30 a.m. and spent about ½ hour reviewing the summit register, which was placed in 1963 and is about ¾ full. After signing the register, we retraced our steps back to lower lake located south of Mount Goethe, picked up our gear and headed off toward the col. Bob and I made the col at 3:00 p.m., just in time to meet up with John after his climb of the class 2 south ridge of Mount Lamarek. It took John about one hour to get to the top of the peak from the col and 40 minutes to descend back to the col. From the col the group headed off towards North Lake, reaching the cars at 5:30 p.m.

Trip statistics: 45 miles and about 15,000 feet of elevation gain for Bob and myself and 40 miles and about 13,000 feet of elevation gain for John.
dozen peaks separated by saddles. We climbed some peaks, skirted others around the SW or NE slopes. We got plenty of bushwhacking experience. But a good portion of the ridge was open forest and easy to traverse. The first ones reached the summit of Homers Nose (UTM 11 344106E, 4027829N, 9,021') by 7:30 am. Although the air was a bit hazy there was a great view over the San Joaquin Valley, the distant San Rafael Mtns, the high peaks of the Great Western Divide and the Kaweahs. We signed the peak register as the first hiking group in 2002 discounting a fire crew which helicoptered to the summit earlier. Due to different hiking speeds our group was spread out but in contact by radio. By 8:20 am we were all together for a summit picture. Then it was time for the return. Attempted by easy forested slopes to the north we got a bit sidetracked toward Cahoon Mdw which later required us to reclimb the ridge. On either side of the ridge we had our bushwhacking experience. By 12 noon, after a 10 mi, 7 hr XC round-trip, we were back in camp. We had lunch, packed up and started our 14 mi return at 1 pm. If it was not for the morning exercise it would have been an easy hike out. But mile after mile the legs got more tired and it took till 6:45 pm to reach the cars. Luckily, no cars were damaged by the marmots. Mike chased one of these fellows out of his engine hood. By 7:30 pm we cruised down the Mineral King road with its hundreds of switchbacks for a midnight return home. In spite of the long trip we all had a good time and were glad to have made one of the less commonly climbed SPS peaks. My special thanks to Mike who volunteered on a short notice to be our assistant leader and did such an excellent job. We missed our original co-leader, Sara Wyrens, and wish her best recovery from her accident.

Mike McDermitt adds:

The ridge hike was interesting. Among the numerous old trails in this area, we found one which descends from Cahoon Rock and goes out to Homers Nose. In certain places along the ridge we followed it. Note that the streamlet alongside which we camped appeared to be seasonal; after Horse Creek, Evelyn Lake might be the only dependable source of water for late season visitors.

Total R/T mileage for the weekend was 35 to 38 miles. The mileage from Mineral King to Hockett Meadow is 11 or 12 miles (Harrison map states the former, trail signs state the latter) and our camp was another 2 miles beyond that. The mileage to Homers Nose from Cahoon Rock depends somewhat on the precise route taken. The ridgeline route measures about 3.75 miles. Actual mileage with traverse seems to be 4 1/2 to 5 miles, depending on choice of route. The trade-off of course is going directly over the bumps and incurring altitude gain/loss versus sidehilling traverses around the bumps for less gain/loss. In retrospect our second group took a nice blend of the two on the way to the summit (see below).

Vertical gain/loss would also vary somewhat with route. Our route incurred an estimated 1000’ of gain outbound from Cahoon Rock (plus another 200’ from camp) and 1700’ of gain on the return. There is also 500’ of gain on the hike out from camp. The hike into camp incurred 1900’ gain, for a total gross gain for the two-day trip of about 5,300’.

Cahoon Rock (9278’) itself has a large grassy open summit area which would accommodate camping although no water. There is a nice view from the namesake rocks (a few boulders rising ~15 feet) but no register. Ron Hudson found, and we descended, an old trail from Cahoon Rock down to Evelyn Lake.

Two of us made an unplanned but short and not unpleasant visit to the vicinity of Pt. 8318, north-northeast of Pt. 8837. This ridge has an open sandy area with a 2-foot cairn, as well as an old trail along its east side, indicating that it has also been visited by others in the past.

ROUTE FROM CAHOON ROCK TO HOMER’S NOSE

There is an obvious gully which descends from a few feet south of the summit rocks, in a southwesterly direction. With this gully as the starting point, make a steep descent of 1000’ in open forest more or less directly to the continued on page 18
John Robinson to Speak at HPS Annual Banquet

By Laura Joseph

Before I discovered HPS, I relied on two marvelous books to choose and guide my hikes: John Robinson’s “Trails of the Angeles” and “San Bernardino Mountain Trails.” From these books, I would select a hike for the weekend, savor the wonderful histories and anecdotes that introduce each hike, and - without compass or map - follow Robinson’s driving and hiking directions. This is John’s unique value for hikers: He gives us both a practical guide and the history and ecology of the mountains.

When I found that I was responsible for planning the January 2003 HPS Banquet, the very first speaker whom I thought of was John Robinson. I was thrilled when, after a chance encounter with Mars and Karen on the summit of San Gabriel, he agreed to be our keynote speaker and, in keeping with his multi-faceted approach to the mountains, chose to talk about the people who hiked the mountains and the peaks that are named after them.

Recently, I spoke with John to learn something about his background in preparation for the banquet in January. He told me that his first exposure to the mountains was on family camping trips to Yosemite when he was very young and the first hiking he did was as a camper at the YMCA summer camp in the San Gabriels where he fell in love with that awesome range. After his first visit to the remains of the Mt. Lowe Railroad, John became fascinated with the history of those mountains and the people who hiked them.

Robinson’s history with the Sierra Club begins with Desert Peaks Section hikes in the fifties. In the mid-fifties, John was instrumental in forming the Sierra Peaks Section and, along with Frank Sanborn, led the very first SPS scheduled outing. He was also an early participant in the Local Hikes Section and was a member of HPS. “My friends in the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club have been my companions in the mountains and have introduced me to many of the delightful lesser-known trails,” he says.

He began writing about hiking in the mountains in the late sixties and published his best-known hiking book, “Trails of the Angeles,” in 1971. This “hiker’s bible” has been described as “the definitive hiking guide to the San Gabriel Mountains.” Later, he turned to history, publishing a trio of beautiful books on the San Jacintos, San Bernadinos, and San Gabriels, covering flora and fauna and geology as well as history. We can all look forward to the book he is working on now which will cover the history of the passes in the mountains of Southern California. This, sadly, will be his last book, although he will continue writing articles for journals.

Robinson promises that his talk at our banquet will begin with John Muir and Will Thrall and go on to others who hiked the Southern California mountains. He’ll share with us the story of Sister Elsie and how the eponymous peak had its name changed to Lukens. This is going to be so much fun!

Interestingly enough, John is leading a trip the same day as our banquet to Echo Mountain via the Sam Merrill Trail. Here’s the Schedule write up:

Learn why this historic trail was named after an early chair of the SoCal Chapter of the Sierra Club. Hear how fellow Sierrans helped maintain the trail through the years. Then hike up to Echo Mtn where we’ll explore the ruins of Thaddeus Lowe’s White City at the top of the Great Incline. 5 mi rt, 1500’ gain. Meet 9 am north end of Lake Ave (3 mi N of 210 Fwy). Bring lunch, water. Rain cancels. Ldrs: John W. Robinson, Ron Jones.

The banquet will be held Saturday, January 18 beginning at 5 pm with a no host bar and a chance to chat with your hiking buddies and see what they look like without hat hair. Dinner with a choice of three entrees will precede the program. In addition to John’s talk, the program includes recognition of members’ achievements (including the traditional “remain standing” ritual) and presentation of the HPS annual awards for leadership and other outstanding accomplishments.

Most of all, this event is really FUN!

The event will be at Les Freres Taix Restaurant, 1911 Sunset Blvd. To reserve, send $29 per person plus raffle purchase (discount raffle tickets $4 for 5), and your choice of vegetarian penne pasta, chicken marsala or grilled salmon to Sandy Burnside. Checks payable to HPS. Contact Laura at ljoseph2@earthlink.net.
C: Jun 13-15 Fri - Sun
LTC/Harwood/WTC
Wilderness First Aid Course (WFAC): Runs from 8 am Fri to 5:30 pm Sun. Proof of CPR within previous 2 years required. Course fee includes lodging and meals. Send $15 with SC#/$15 non-member (WFAC-full refund thru 9 May) to WFAC, PO Box 3414, Fullerton, CA 92834. For course info contact Ldr: Steve Schuster.

E: Jun 20-22 Fri-Sun
North Palisade (14,242’):
SPS/WTC Trip restricted to SC members with ice axe and crampon snow climbing experience, 4th class rock experience, and strong physical conditioning. Fri backpack along North Fork Big Pine Creek to camp at edge of Palisade Glacier. Sat very strenuous climb of U-notch snow chute and traverse to peak. Sun hike out. Detailed resumes of snow/rock climb experience and fitness training required. Send resume, $5 permit fee, H&W phones, email, rideshare info to Ldr: Tom McDonnell Co Ldr: Nile Sorenson.

Note to Leaders: Leaders who have an approved restricted trip must report back to the SPS Outings Chair on the trip. Send the Trip Sign-in sheet to the Outings Chair after the trip. If the trip is postponed or cancelled, report this to the Outings Chair.

Mountain Records

We had another good season for placing register books on our listed peaks. Mike Adams hauled a cylinder to LeConte, and a number of people placed register books: Daryn Dodge on Bloody, Keith Martin on Conness, Jack Miller on Agassiz, Stephane Mouradian on Crag, Patty Rambert on Warren, Maria Roa on Ritter, and Bob Rockwell on Gould. I placed books on Geneva, Olanche, Pettit, Piute and replaced a PVC pipe container with an SPS cylinder on Geneva and left a cylinder for Jordan also. Thanks to all who helped out with reports and placing books and containers. Keep those reports coming. Thanks! October 21, 2002

Tina Bowman/Mountain Records Chair

Homer’s Nose continued

broad saddle east of Pt. 8387. One can proceed directly over Pt. 8387 or, as we did, ascend a hundred or so feet then traverse on the north side and contour around to the next saddle directly above Cahoon Meadow. The old trail is visible in the vicinity of this saddle, as are side routes apparently heading north to the meadow and south down to the Kaweah South Fork. We followed along the trail which generally followed the ridge pretty closely until just south of Pt. 8446. Here we stayed high about 100-200’ below the point and worked through a short distance of some heavy brush on the left (south/east) side then continued along the ridge on the north side as I recall not directly on the ridge. We traversed the north side of Pt. 8837, ascending to perhaps 8600’ (which gives a fair indication of our traverse line) as we went along, then dropped back down to 8500’ at the next saddle. From this saddle immediately east of Pt. 8837, we headed east and slightly north, traversing the backside of Pt. 8921 (the front side of which is the Nose) crossing at the bench at the ~8700’ level. Then back down to the north side of last saddle. From there, we made the simple hike up to Homers Nose, another 400’ to 500’ through open woods.
SPS Annual Banquet
January 8, 2003

Presents Ellen Wilts
Speaking of first ascents
in Canada and the west

Ticket Order form
Mail checks made out to the SPS and
this form to Gary Schenk, PO Box 1414,
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

Name _______________________
Number of tickets @ $28 each____

Dinner selection:
Vegetarian___ Chicken___ Fish___

Location: Buon Gusto Trattoria
5755 E. PCH, Long Beach

6 PM no host bar, 7:30 dinner
The Sierra Echo

November VOL. 46 NO. 5
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ADVERTISEMENT: Private activity announcements and advertisements are accepted at the following rates. Private trip announcements: $1.00 for the first 4 lines and $1.00 for each additional line. Other announcements and product/service advertisements: $1.00 per line or $25.00 for a half page space. Reach out to our climbing constituency and place an ad today! Send copy and check made out to the SPS, to the Editor.

ADDRESS CHANGES: Send address changes to Secretary: Joe Wankum, 3627 Garnet #34, Torrance, CA 90503. The ECHO is mailed via 3rd class mail and will not be forwarded by the post office.

PEAKS LIST: Copies of the SPS peaks list can be obtained by sending $1.00 and a SASE to the section Treasurer: c/o Chair: Erik Siering 9359 Lincoln Blvd. #1252, Los Angeles, CA 90045-7101

MISSING ISSUES: Inquiries regarding missing issues should be directed to the section Mailer: Beth Epstein, 4048 East Massachusetts St., Long Beach, CA 90814-2825.

AWARDS: Notification of accomplishments send to section Secretary: Joe Wankum, 3627 Garnet #34, Torrance, CA 90503, e-mail jbwankum@aol.com. To purchase awards merchandise - Emblem pins ($15.00), senior emblem pins ($15.00), master emblem pins ($15.00), list finisher pins ($15.00). and section patches ($20.00) are available from Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Dr, Topanga Cyn, CA, 90290. Make all Checks Payable to the SPS, all prices include sales tax.

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